

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

## Affairs of FRANCE:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers* and  
*Petty-Statesmen*, of all Sides.

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Saturday, December 9. 1704.

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I Have at last, done with the Affairs of *Hungary*, and the influence the *French* have had, and still have upon them: I have receiv'd some trifling Objections against what has been advanc'd; but I see no weight in them worthy a Reply; and as some are of the Opinion, the Story has been too long a telling, because they love rather to tell a long Tale, than to hear one; I shall endeavour to give them no farther occasion of Complains.

I come now nearer to the Affairs of *France*, and shall go on to Examine the influence of this Mighty Monarch, upon the rest of *Europe*, both in Matters of State and War.

When I gave a Description of his Greatness, it came in my way to describe his Prodigious Forces; and tho' I never pretended to Prophecy, yet I cannot but value my self upon five Observations I made in that part of my Story, which tho' long before the Affairs were Transacting, the Consequence of things has made out to be right Conclusions.

1. I always advanc'd it as a thing I firmly believ'd, That in *Italy* the *French* would be too hard, both for the *Germans* and the Duke of *Savoy* United.

2. I freely gave it as my Opinion, that the Brigues of the *French* Court would always so influence the Honest; but Foolish Nation of the *Swiss*, that either by Threats, by fine Words, by Money, or one *French* Wheedle or other, the

Duke of *Savoy* would have very little Assistance that way.

3. I always affirm'd, and was not a little ill Treated for it, both in Discourse and Print, that the *Camisars* must sink, and could not be reliev'd by any part of the Confederacy, till the Duke of *Savoy* was Master of the Field in *Italy*, and strong enough to pierce the Heart of *Provence*, and pass the *Rhone* in the Face of the *French* Forces.

4. I presum'd to say, without any Correspondence with the Queen's Enemies, that the *French* would bend all their Naval Force to form a Power sufficient to be Masters of the Sea in the *Mediterranean*.

5. I advanc'd that the *English* and *Dutch* bending all their Forces to Defend the Empire; the March of the Duke of *M*——, and removing the Seat of the War from the Frontiers of *Flanders*; where our Men could do nothing but knock their Heads against Stone-Walls, to the Banks of the *Danube*, or *Upper Rhine*, was the only way to save the Confederacy from Ruin; and that the March of the D—— to the *Danube*, was the first probable Step the Confederates had taken for some Years, and the only Action that seem'd to promise Success, and that could save *Europe* from *French* Power.

6. I always said less of the *Portugal* Expedition, than it was thought I ought to say, tho' nothing less than has come to Pass.

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I entreat the Reader's Pardon, for advancing so much to the Credit of my former Guesses, for they were no more; and I do this not for the Vanity of having more foresight than my Neighbours, but because having a great deal more good Work before me, I bespeak their favourable Censure of what I shall Suggest may yet be to come, from the Rational Conjectures I made before.

This way of Writing is something like Judicial Astrology, where tho' all seems to be meer Guess, yet the Calculation of Probabilities may give a Man an insight farther into an Affair, and its Consequences, than every one may think possible; and when what was rationally deduc'd comes to pass, the Man is taken for a Conjuror, with some that know nothing of the Matter; when in Truth, every Man may Conjure as well as he, if he would study the Reasons, and Natural Consequences of the thing.

Those who are not satisfied that I have thus given my Opinion, may please to look back on the *Reviews* from N<sup>o</sup> 20, to N<sup>o</sup> 31.

Not but I am ready to Confess the Battle at *Blenheim*, and the Prodigious Success of the Duke of *Marlborough*, and the Confederate Army since that time, have very much out-done all that I could have hop'd for, or expected; much less, could I have had the Arrogance to suggest such unlook'd for Events, especially after we saw Monsieur *Tallard* join'd with the *Bavarians*, and Prince *Lewis* of *Baden* sent with 15000 Men to Besiege *Ingolstadt*: I am very free to Confess, that the best Effect I lookt for, of the last Summers Campaign on that side, after the Conjunction of two such Armies, was, That our Troops being Superiour, would spare the Detachment under Prince *Lewis*, join'd with General *Herbervil*, and making about 22000 Men, might reduce the strong Towns of *Bavaria*, by length of time and Seiges, while the Grand Army might cover those Seiges, by facing the *French*; and as this would be a matter of time, I always concluded, that in the mean time the Duke of *Savoy* must be lost of Course, and all the black Consequences on that side, seem'd as Certain as the other.

Thus the Reader may see I am as ready to acknowledge my self Mistaken, when I am so, as any body; and who was not as much Mistaken as I? Would not Monsieur *Tallard* have laugh'd at any Man that should have told him

his *Gendarmerie*, and the Flower of the *French* Household, should turn *Poltrons*, and fly from Squadrons of *English* Horse? would he have believ'd he should see the Flower of the *French* valry, precipitate themselves into the *Danube*, would he have believ'd, the Duke of *Marlborough*, having sent away 15000 Men, and been above 6000 weaker in Number than himself, would venture to have Attack'd him in his lefted Post, flank'd with a Wood on one hand the *Danube* on the other, and a River and Marshes on his Front; his Foot Entrench'd and *Polisadoed*, and his Horse Posted on a Hill? would certainly have said, as old Duke *Luxemburg* said of King *William*, when Prince of *Orange*, when being most advantageously Posted at the Abbey of *St. Denis*, near *Mons*, he was told the Prince of *Orange* was in a full March to Attack him, *il étoit impossible*, says the Duke, *Le Prince d'Orange étoit plus de soldat*; 'tis impossible, the Prince of *Orange* is more of a Soldier than to Attack me in this Post.

And I make no doubt, had the Duke of *Marlborough* fail'd in his Attempt, and been Beaten off from the *French*, all those Gentlemen, who find fault with every thing that Miscarries, would have rais'd Clamours at his Conduct, call'd it a Mad hairbrain'd Attempt, and unlikely to succeed, such as no Wise Man would have undertaken; that it was Sacrificing the Brave Army, the Confederates, and putting too much to the Risque of a day, they would have undertaken to Calculate the Improbabilities, and place them all to the Account of his Grace's Discretion: Thus we should have been calling him to an Account in every *Coffee-House*, and he would have been Tried and Condemn'd by Hundred Thousand Juries.

But Success and his extraordinary Conduct have join'd to prove the Attempt both Rational and Feasible; and as it has out-done Men's Expectation, so I am not backward to own I saw nothing in the Affairs of this Nation, or of the whole Confederacy, which might give me the least Ground to hope God, had so much good in Store for us, or that the Power of *France* should receive such a Blow by any Human Force in this War.

But however Right I have guess'd before, this Success has out-done all my expectation, and gives a Prospect of great things yet behind.



# ADVICE from the Scandal. CLUB.

Whether the Author of the following Letter, be a Friend to the Old *Observer* or the New, to one Party or t'other, we know not, nor think it worth while to Enquire; but the following, being not less than the fifth or sixth Letter we have receiv'd, the Society have pick'd out this, as the fittest, to come before them.

Gentlemen,

Since the Town is, and has been, very much fill'd with Papers, called the *Observers*, some one way, some another, we desire you to Answer us some of the following Queries.

1. Whether the Review is not Confederate with them all, since he has been pleas'd to find a great many Faults in other Papers, but none in any of them. Or,

2. Whether they are all writ so exact, there is no fault to be found with them?

3. Whether in a Certain Tryal, lately past of the *Observer*, his Countryman did not serve him a Dog Trick, to come and be Evidence against him?

4. Whether the *Observer* did not please the Party as well, in the Interval, when it was wrote by a Papist, as it did before?

The Queries being found to have some other Signification in them, than the Literal Sense signifies; the Society thought fit to give the World Notice, that their Answers will be less Direct than usual, because they foresee the Design of the Enquirer.

1. The Review Declares against all Paper-Confederacy; and if he has not found Fault with the Papers above-mentioned, it may signify, that he has not so little foresight, as to attempt to Cure the Incurable; besides, when they are daily finding faults with one another, the Work seems to be done to his hand.

2. As to the second Question, he answers Negatively, but Forgery being the Talent and Profession of some of them; Vide the Rehearsal upon W. C. Where he has the Face to say Mr. Colpeper was Caned by Mr. D—w to make him fight, tho' Mr. D—w took Care on his Tryal to prove he never struck him, and all the Eye-Witnesses Swore the same thing; the Review sets such Men alone, as dangerous to meddle with.

3. As to the third Question; if the *Observer's* Printer was Evidence against him, he Asked

like such a Printer, and that's all we have to say, 'tis a Dangerous thing to Reflect upon the Queen's Evidence.

4. As to the last, the Society are not Satisfied it was ever wrote by a Papist; but if any Man would know, whether it Pleas'd as well as before, he may arrive to a Certainty, if he pleases to Enquire of the Persons concern'd, whether they sold an equal Quantity in the interval, as before.

And here the Author of this asks leave to Note by the way, That those Gentlemen, who wrote him three Letters, Charging him with writing the *Observer* while the Author was in Trouble, do both him and that Author a great deal of wrong.

1. They do him wrong, to think him Qualified for that most extraordinary Work.

2. They do the *Observer* wrong, to think that he did not know better himself, whatever he may Report, to answer ends of his own.

Here's a sad Spectacle brought before the Society, making his last Speech and Confession; Pity him all good People, take Warning by him; and if you have any regard to your own good, beware of the Fatal Example.

To the Author of the Review,

I Am entering the Sixteenth Year of my Age, but Young as I am, I have already Rhym'd my self out of a very fair Estate: my Father often strewn what he has now done, viz. to abandon me to Ruin and Poverty, unless I reclaim'd; and I as often Vow'd to follow the Muses no longer; but when the Poetick Fit seiz'd me, my Reason fled, and in sight of all my former Oaths and Vows, I fell a Victim to the All-Powerful God, and was undone; and now I, like the Erastick Lover, beg my Chains, and Court what has been my Bane; till some Specifick Remedy, that may Cure a Poetick Sick Soul, and free a hapless Youth from the Chains of Apollo; in doing which you will much oblige Your Humble Servant,

Novemb. 29.

1704.

B. M.

If this Case be true, 'tis a sad and lamentable Condition, and the Society think is something equal to those Merry Lunatics in Bedlam, that Sing with their Chains

D. M.



But the Club are of Opinion there ought to be good Proof of the Fact, before they give any Credit to it; for there seems some Improbabilities in it.

1. They think meer Poetry cannot make a Man a Beggar; and therefore they Query how any Man can Rhime himself out of his Estate.

2. This Gentleman, being so young as 16 Years of Age, they are the rather inclin'd to fall in with the improbability, since Rhime is a Plant seldom ripe at that Age.

3. From all these Circumstances, they are inclin'd to believe this Gentleman is Beggard for want of Rhime, and that the General Notion of a Poet being Poor, is a vulgar Error, and such Gentlemen become Poor not for being Poets, but for want of being Poets. They allow thers a great deal of Rhime without Poetry; a great many Poems without Wit, and a great deal of Wit, without Sence; and they cannot give this Young Verse-Cobler any Advice; unless they knew his particular Deficiency; only this they observe, That if he is but 16 Years Old, it cannot be too late to reform; but if the Jingling Devil has possess'd him, as he seems to imply by his Letter, he must Rhime on, and carry the Threadbare Spirit to a pitch; one happy Elevation may chance to make his Fortunes, or else he may imitate Mr. Creech, and make an end of a Poet the shortest Way.

WE think there never was a plainer Proof, that one Man may ask more Questions; than all the World can Answer; than in the following Case.

Gentlemen of the Scandal. Club,

I Desire your Answers to the following Questions; viz.

1. Whether you think it possible to prove, demonstratively, the Immateriality of the Soul.

II. Supposing that done; whether we have any more Reason from thence to conclude it Immortal, Than when we suppose it Material?

Even in the Law, 'tis allow'd to be Irregular, because generally Impracticable to prove Negatives; or else somebody who has been blam'd for taking Negative Oaths, has been very much wrong'd: Now, What this Gentleman means by a Demonstration of Immateriality is such a Riddle, as none but himself can Explain; and therefore till the Terms of the Question are rectifi'd, the Society are of Opinion no other Answer can be given.

As to his second Question, to avoid Cavilling, we Answer; if by Immateriality, he would be understood spiritualis. We think there is some

more reason to believe a Spirit Immortal, than a Body.

We are Sorry to see Men take such Pains to reason themselves out of the Immortality of the Soul, and humbly think, if they would joyn a little Faith to their Reason, it would solve the doubt; they have receiv'd a great many Questions and Letters, some too Atheistical, on this Head, which they think too weighty for the Author of this to decide; but since the Gentlemen think him capable of saying something to the purpose, they shall have his Thoughts, and in the next Supplement may expect it.

A Gentleman, who sent an Angry Letter to the Society, sign'd F. R. is desir'd to give Notice where a Letter may be directed to him, which may, possibly, give him more Satisfaction than he expects.

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